

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025

Chairman Jake Rettberg with all Commissioners present except Larry Mouser convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, and Meghan Theel.

MINUTES:

Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 11, 2025. John Gudel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote with John Ulery and Jake Rettberg voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

None Present

BILL LIST:

John Gudel made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$298,734.81 for payment. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for February was \$1771.76 with a year to date of \$6,448.88.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for February is \$16,769.20. With a total owed to date of \$115,630.15.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT

Shannon Collins reported:

- **Overnight Sites** - The campground is back in full swing as of March 1st. We had all the overnight water and electric sites booked by 8am on the 1st, for the July 4th weekend.
- **New Bait Shop Hours** - We are trying something a little new this year regarding hours. We normally open 7am-3pm, Thursday-Monday until April 15th. This year we will keep those hours until Thursday before Memorial Day weekend. At that point we will go 7am-7pm seven days a week.
- **Waiting List** - I have started the process of calling people on the waiting list. We currently have 10 open sites.
- **Winter Projects** - The maintenance crew have been busy with a few winter projects. They have put ceilings in the south bathrooms, along with repainting the showers and fixing a shower wall.
- **Bench Seats** - They have also replaced some of the wood on bench seats down by the boat marina.
- **Pump Truck** - The crew has replaced the boards on the pump truck as well.
- **South Bathroom** - On the second south bathroom, the guys built a cover/dog box for what was the old septic tank, which is the clean out for the new tank.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

Joe Hogan gave an update on the Route 104 project.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **IRWA Conference-** Denzel, Stan, and I attended the annual Illinois Rural Water Conference in Effingham, IL last month. The 3-day event is always filled with great educational classes and updates. We also won their state-wide water taste test. This is the second time in 4 years that Otter Lake has won. We will compete and submit another sample at the National Rural Water Rally in Washington D.C. next February.
- **Health Insurance Coverage-** We recently found out that our current health insurance provider, Health Alliance, is ceasing operations at the end of the year. I have reached out to our insurance broker at CBIZ to discuss our options. He believes it will be easy to find a comparable policy with another provider but would like to wait until later in the year to start comparing coverages. He says there is still a chance another company might buy out Health Alliance.
- **CIWPOA Planning Meeting-** Last month I met with a few members from our local operator group to plan this year's upcoming training sessions. This small association is made up of operators from Central Illinois and is a great way for them to earn their continuing education hours at a very low cost. We are still able to keep membership dues at \$10 per year. In the past years, we have put together 3 meetings per year, totaling 12 continuing education hours for the operators. I am currently serving as Secretary and Treasurer of the group.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality-** February 2025 saw an average lake temp of 40 degrees and an average pH of 8.4. The lake level was recorded at 619'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We were operating the UV system in DIS mode only.
MIB and Geosmin Sample Results
February 10, 2025, Raw Geosmin 9.4 ng/L and finished Geosmin 2.4 ng/L
February 10, 2025, Raw MIB 2.3 ng/L and finished MIB <2.0 ng/L
- **South Dam** - The crew did a controlled burn of the dam.
- **Crew Training-** We've gotten on loan a practice/empty chlorine cylinder from our chemical supplier so that the crew can practice using our chlorine capture B kit.
- **Distribution System-** We've had a leak at Dickey John and Auburn Park Rd. The crew was able to use the vac trailer to clean around the water main and valves. Upon excavation we realized we had to stop for the time being. We've had to order materials and will make the repair once we have them. We encountered a 16"x10" T encased in concrete. We also developed a plan to make a temporary repair if the leak fully breaks.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None to report.

At 5:40pm Mike McCarthy made a motion to adjourn. Dave Skinner seconded the motion. With no further business to discuss the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The next Commission Meeting will be at the Commission Office - 6475 W Montgomery Road in Virden on Tuesday April 8, at 5:00 PM

Meghan Theel

Minutes approved by the Board on 4.08.2025